

January is Radon Action Month. To Keep Your Home Healthy – Test. Fix. Save a Life

Radon is an invisible, odorless and colorless gas that is emitted by soil and rock which can seep into indoor spaces through gaps in the foundation, construction joints, and through cracks in floors and walls. Well water can also serve as a source for radon.

According to the EPA, your radon exposure risk will depend on:

- The levels of radon in your home, school or work space.
- The amount of time you spend in those environments.
- Whether you have a deep dug well sunk into rocks with high radium concentration.
- Whether or not you're a smoker; and
- Since radon levels are highest in rooms close to the ground whether you spend a lot of time in basement rooms

In January, New Hampshire Healthy Homes encourages everyone to get their homes tested for radon. This is a simple way to protect you and your loved ones' health. There are a number of resources for test kits:

- Do-it-yourself test kits for radon run between \$20 and \$30 and can be purchased online and at your local hardware store.
- If you'd like a certified technician to measure the radon levels in your home or other indoor environment go to the National Radon Proficiency Program website to ensure that you hire a qualified technician. www.nrpp.info

If your home has elevated radon levels, it's important to find a qualified radon service professional to fix your home immediately. The cost will vary, but average cost seems to be around \$1,200.

Once your home's radon issues have been fixed, you should re-test your home every two years. It's a good idea to re-test your home regularly even if your levels were not elevated to begin with to be sure the levels remain low.

Other Resources:

New Hampshire Environmental Tracking Program
http://www.nh.gov/epht/documents/Radon_Jan2016_Final.pdf

New Hampshire Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/bchs/clpp/documents/hhbrochure.pdf

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/radon

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/pehb/ehs/radon/categories/resources.htm